

**Erika Guy**

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**From:** Nicolette Wallman <nicolette.wallman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 12:48 PM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** YAM

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Nicolette Wallman, and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County. I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community. As an artist myself, I take comfort in knowing that there is a space in my town for fellow art lovers to share. The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners.

As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed.

Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home.  
Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Sincerely,

Nicolette Wallman

**Erika Guy**

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**From:** Dana Grob <grobd@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 12:32 PM  
**To:** Mark Morse; Mike Waters; Chris White; commission  
**Subject:** YAM Funding  
**Attachments:** LETTER-TEMPLATE\_Yellowstone-County-Resident.pdf

I strongly disagree with cutting funding to the Yellowstone Art Museum. Please see attachment.

Dana Grob  
Yellowstone County Resident

Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners  
316 N 26th Street #3101  
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is Dana Grob, and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County.

I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community.

The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners.

As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed. Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home. Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Sincerely,

Dana Grob

740 Parkhill Dr, Billings, MT, 59102

## Erika Guy

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**From:** Emily Meick <emily.meick@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 12:01 PM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** YAM Funding - Please Support the Arts

Hello, Yellowstone County Commissioners -

The Yellowstone Art Museum (YAM) is an important part of our community, providing access to art and culture for all residents and tourists. The YAM brings in world-class local, regional, and international art for all to enjoy. The YAM is an important part of the walkability of downtown Billings and it remains a great partner for downtown events, culture, and community building.

Reducing the YAM's funding again will greatly and negatively impact programming, community outreach, youth education, exhibits, safety, and building maintenance, as well as staff.

Why do you want to reduce funds for this organization and what is your justification?

Please support the arts in Yellowstone County and do not reduce funding to the YAM. I'm so proud of the YAM and look forward to exhibitions as they come through town. I urge you to reconsider these cuts.

Emily Meick  
2600 Montana Ave, Billings MT

**Erika Guy**

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**From:** Bev Ross <bevtross@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 5:38 AM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** Yellowstone Art Museum

Dear commissioners,  
Please do not cut funding for YAM. This funding is specifically for our museums.  
People move here not just for good jobs but also for our cultural institutions for themselves and their children.  
Thank you. Beverly T. Ross.

Sent from my iPad

**Erika Guy**

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**From:** breanna shermer <bjar10860@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 7:26 PM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** Art Museum Funding

Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners  
316 N 26th Street #3101  
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,  
My name is Breanna, and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County. I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community. The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners. As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed. Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home. Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Sincerely,

Breanna Shermer

## Erika Guy

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**From:** sheila miles <sheilamiles4@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 6:17 PM  
**To:** Mark Morse; Mike Waters; Chris White; commission

Dear Commissioner Morse, Waters and White and Commission,

Please save the Yellowstone Art Museum and keep the full Budget.

As a former Curator at the Yellowstone Art Museum, professional Artist with many pieces in their collection, and a former Curator or Education there, I know the benefits the visual arts play in the community.

I understand for every \$1 spent on the arts you reap \$8 in the community/

This much lived historical museum will Close. Many people will lose their jobs.

I much loved field trip destination for thousands of school children and place for adults to study art will be shuttered.

You will have another albatross, this time, sitting at the corner of 4th and 27th.

Plus, I understand this is illegal (?) (against the law) to remove this money from the Yellowstone Budget to pay for "safety".

What other cultural centers does Billings have? They are all an important part of the make up they attracts visitors to Billings but visual arts and especially it's service to school children puts it at the top.

Please reconsider and find another source of money for your "safety budget".

Thanks,  
Sheila Miles

505-603-3781

**Erika Guy**

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**From:** Martha Fuller <marthastahl75@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 12:11 PM  
**To:** Mark Morse; Mike Waters; Chris White; commission  
**Subject:** Funding for the YAM

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is Martha Fuller, and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County.

I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum.

The YAM is one of the institutions that increase quality of life in Yellowstone County. Over the last 12 years, I have taken advantage of the museum to entertain my kids on winter day, create with my family at education events, view art by both local and internationally known artists, hear from artists about their work and process, and enjoy community events such as Winterfair, Art Walk, and the Monster Drawing Rally. The arts are for everyone, and the YAM has found innovative ways to engage folks from across our community.

I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community. The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners. As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed.

Sincerely,

Martha Fuller  
2021 Plaza Drive  
Billings, MT 59102



**Erika Guy**

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**From:** Grady Johnson <gradysjohnson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 11:33 AM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** YAM Funding

Hello,

My name is Grady Johnson, I am a resident of Lockwood. I recently heard about the comissioners' decision to drastically cut funding for the Yellowstone Art Museum.

I am deeply disappointed to hear about this decision. While I respect and appreciate the care given to using public money wisely, the services provided by the YAM represent public good that our community needs. Art reflects and expresses what it means to be human. They are the sign of an advancing and thriving community. Kids who are encouraged to have regular engagement with the arts are more successful academically and more well-rounded overall.

Please reconsider this poor decision for our community and restore funding to the YAM. As a taxpayer, these cuts do not represent my values, nor do I believe they are helpful for the county.

Thank you for your time,

Grady Johnson

**Erika Guy**

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**From:** orange harris <doggo.lives.within@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 10:55 AM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** Yellowstone Art Museum Funding

Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners  
316 N 26th Street #3101  
Billings, MT 59101,

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is Shalee Harris, and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County. I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community. The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners. As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed. Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home. Thank you for your work in service of our community.

## Erika Guy

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**From:** Carrie La Seur <claseur@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 8:38 AM  
**To:** Mark Morse; Mike Waters; Chris White; commission  
**Subject:** YAM budget cut

Dear Mark, Mike, and Chris -

As a fifth generation Billings resident, I'm writing to ask you please to reconsider cutting the YAM's budget. Generations of our family have enjoyed the YAM for classes, dining, events, and just sitting quietly in the courtyard, away from the noise of downtown. It's such an important anchor for the downtown and the community, and sends an important message about the kind of city Billings wants to be. Putting money into prisons rather than cultural centers is not the way I want my tax dollars spent. I donate to the YAM because it serves the community freely, with many free offerings for families and kids. My friends and family have done kids' camps there, beading and cooking classes, and other events like the High Plains Book Awards that rely on this amazing venue to enrich the city. These things are for everyone and should be supported by the county. If you haven't spent time there yet, I hope you'll check it out. You would be very welcome and I think it would brighten your day.

Thank you for your time.

Carrie La Seur  
525 O'Malley Dr.  
Billings

**Erika Guy**

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**From:** idnicoll.iv@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 12:08 AM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** Restore YAM funding now

Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners  
316 N 26th Street #3101  
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is Ian, and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County. I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community.

The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners.

As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed.

Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home.

Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Ian Nicoll  
136 S Crestwood Dr  
Billings, MT 59102

**Erika Guy**

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**From:** Julian Gaub <juliangaub@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 9:26 PM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** YAM Funding

Commissioners,

I am reaching out regarding the proposed plan to cut funding for the Yellowstone Art Museum. This is a mistake. In my opinion, we need all the arts and culture we can get in Billings & Yellowstone County. We don't have many nice things here, and it seems like the nice things we do have are getting fewer and farther between. We have people fighting so hard to make this place better and more liveable, but it's tough when it seems like there are so many others doing their damndest to take away what little we do have.

Billings needs more than run-down bars and vacant buildings on every corner. The future of this city & county relies on people in leadership positions (YOU!) investing in things that make people want to live here. Invest in something that makes Billings a little better.

Thank you for your time,

Julian Gaub

## Erika Guy

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**From:** Suzanne Moran <suzannemoran@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 7:57 PM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** YAM Budget Cuts  
**Attachments:** IMG\_4938.jpeg; IMG\_4937.jpeg; IMG\_4935.jpeg; IMG\_4932.jpeg; IMG\_4930.jpeg; IMG\_4938.jpeg; IMG\_4935.jpeg; IMG\_4930.jpeg; IMG\_4933.jpeg

You all, on the Country Commissioner's team, may not understand what the arts mean to Billings and Yellowstone County, but I would like to share a slice of what I know about the Yellowstone Art Museum from personal and professional experience.

I moved here from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 2004 and over these 20 years have seen an increase in the arts and music in the Magic City. That is wonderful cultural growth, where previously there was a struggle. That growth creates Billings in the running for up and coming quality urban areas for the 21st century that are true cities in this country that encompass the arts and the business sectors and can compete accordingly. This is what will make Billings a truly destination location.

The artists in Montana have created a niche of modern and western art that cannot be duplicated and the Art Museum is able to display, showcase and teach our children and community how important the arts are in our culture.

Art has returned to the community in a way that is unique to Billings , Montana.

It has become available to everyone, and anyone who wants to be able to appreciate, connect , learn and enjoy; young, old, seasoned and hopefully even the skeptical.

Many of the projects from the Outreach Department from YAM reach those who would be deprived of adding some cultures to their lives under any other circumstance.

I am the Religious Activities Specialist/Chaplain at the Montana Women's Prison and had distinct pleasure working with the Outreach Department, going way back to Sally McIntosh and her passion for bringing art inside, where the partnership between MWP and YAM has been nothing short of a miracle and where our women get to think, imagine a dream, when opportunity for art never ends.

The YAM reaches those who who have never had a voice, but in their work able to express works of beauty...

I have attached a couple pics of a small portion of work created on the inside, showing the humanity, creativity and beauty and the continued need for museums like YAM in Billings.

Cutting funding will devastate the partnership and creativity that currently exists.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne L. Moran  
Shepherd, MT

**Erika Guy**

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**From:** Desiree Caskey <caskeyd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 5:33 PM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** Yellowstone Art Museum Funding

Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners  
316 N 26th Street #3101  
Billings, MT 59101

August 18, 2025

Dear Commissioners Morse, Waters, and White,

My name is Desireé Caskey, and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County and a patron of many cultural venues in our city, including the Yellowstone Art Museum

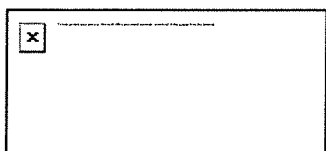
I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community.

The YAM is an extraordinary asset for our county as well as surrounding counties, and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners.

As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed. I implore you to please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home.

Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Sincerely,



Desireé Caskey  
2932 Kincaid Rd  
Billings, MT. 59101

**Erika Guy**

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**From:** David Hummel <helidave@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 5:08 PM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** Funding for the Yellowstone Art Museum

Gentlemen:

I was disturbed to hear that the Commission plans to substantially reduce funding for the largest and most attended museum in the county. I have personally supported the museum for many years and I hope that you will maintain your support as well. Recently the YAM has initiated a Billings Airport art display. They fund art education for our children. These efforts benefit all county residents and require funding. Please again do not reduce funding for the Yellowstone Art Museum.

Respectfully submitted,

David M Hummel Jr

2803 Patricia Lane

Billings, MT 59102



**Erika Guy**

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**From:** Yarn Bar <yarnbarmt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 4:57 PM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** Yellowstone Art Museum funding

Hello Commissioners,

As the owners of a successful small business established in 2017, we are writing to encourage the county to *at least* maintain current levels of funding for our art museum. We cannot imagine the Billings-and-beyond community without this gem of a facility for enjoying a variety of art.

In addition to bringing in tourist dollars and being a place for a variety of events, the building is a joy to look at when driving or walking through town. It looks clean, tidy, and inviting - and the interior is even better. What a shame it would be to see a glorious building looking shabby and neglected because the county apparently cannot help maintain an art museum - that the community does not value Art. As the largest city in Montana it seems that a vibrant art museum would be a given. In the art museum realm, it is not a big museum but it sure is a wonderful asset for Billings and Yellowstone County and we are proud to tell guests in our shop about it when they ask about things to do in Billings.

Sincerely,  
Sue Baker and Linda Heins  
Yarn Bar  
2909 2nd Avenue North

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**Erika Guy**

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**From:** Pari Kemmick <pari.kemmick@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 4:24 PM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** Do not cut funding to the YAM

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is Pari Kemmick and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County. I live in Billings on the Northside. I was born and raised in Billings and I am an active community member.

I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community.

The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners. There is so much the YAM offers to our community from children's programs, to important cultural events and more. ***As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed.***

Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home. Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Sincerely,

Pari Kemmick  
Billings/Yellowstone County Resident

**Erika Guy**

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**From:** Linda Heins <heinslindak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 4:19 PM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** NO to defunding the YAM!

Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners

316 N 26th Street #3101  
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Commissioners,

In Billings we pride ourselves on being a vibrant, welcoming community. Our art museum is an essential part of that identity. It does far more than house paintings and sculptures — it educates our children, inspires our residents, and brings visitors from outside our region who contribute significantly to our local economy.

Defunding the museum risks more than closing doors to art — it risks diminishing how our city is perceived by both residents and visitors. A thriving museum signals a thriving city. Without it, we lose a vital cultural resource, a hub of education, and a proven driver of tourism revenue.

As a co-owner of a local downtown business, Yarn Bar, I see the economic impacts of recent national changes with tariffs and inflation. Restricting funds to the Yellowstone Art Museum will further deny local business the tourist market. Is that what your intentions are?

Art enriches daily life. It sparks creativity, fosters empathy, and provides perspective. A life without art is not only diminished, it is incomplete. I urge you to continue supporting our art museum so that our city can remain a place where culture, education, and community all flourish.

As your constituent, I strongly urge NOT to go through with this proposed drastic cut and instead pursue a solution that sustains all museums that serve Yellowstone County.

Respectfully,

Linda Heins

645 Park Lane

Billings, MT 59102

**Erika Guy**

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**From:** Alissa Kost <magdadirector3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 4:10 PM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** SUPPORT THE ARTS IN YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners

316 N 26th Street #3101  
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is Alissa Kost, and I am the Director of a Montana-based nonprofit art museum consortium called the Montana Art Gallery Directors Association.

I recently learned of your proposal to further reduce the Yellowstone Art Museum's county funding, so I'm sharing this message in hopes it will provide a different perspective for you to consider.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the art and cultural sector of Montana provided 2.2 billion to Montana's economy in 2022, (representing 3.24% of the state's GDP), 16,540 jobs (3.14% of Montana's workforce), and total compensation of 1.2 billion.

Americans for the Arts', *Art & Economic Prosperity survey #6*, compiled in 2023, reported 91.9 % of audiences in Montana agreed with the statement: "This arts activity/venue is inspiring a sense of pride in this neighborhood or community."

There has been a National urge to trim down and eliminate unnecessary programs and funding. What commissioners and congresspeople from around the Nation have been hardened to see is that the arts & culture have an invaluable impact on ALL industries, not just themselves. Nonprofits support the economy of an entire county and have lasting benefits on every individual who resides there, regardless of attendance. This is not opinion, this is fact. Eliminating funding to protect the heart of the community will disparage that community much faster than not funding repairs to its leg.

Please reconsider your proposed funding cut.

<https://www.artsactionfund.org>

**Alissa Kost | Executive Director**

Montana Art Gallery Directors Association

126 Sweetgrass Ave. Bozeman, MT 59718

[magdadirector3@gmail.com](mailto:magdadirector3@gmail.com)

406-570-9519

[www.magdamt.org](http://www.magdamt.org)



**Erika Guy**

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**From:** Morgan Lombardi <morganlombardi5@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 3:57 PM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** Restore YAM Funding

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is Morgan, and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County.

I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm **deeply concerned** this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder necessary programming and activities it offers to our community.

The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners.

As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed. I implore you to seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home. Thank you for your work in service of our community. I have faith you will act in good conscience for your constituents.

Sincerely,

*Morgan Lombardi*

*1226 Harvard Ave, Billings, MT 59102*

## Erika Guy

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**From:** Meri Mcglone <Meri.Mcglone@fib.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 3:43 PM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** Letter to Support the YAM  
**Attachments:** Letter - YAM.pdf

Hello,

Please see the attached letter to support the YAM funding. The Yam helps Yellowstone County up-to-date on cultural arts and adds another destination to many of our visitors to Yellowstone County.

Thank you!

Meri McGlone



Meri McGlone

VP, COMMERCIAL LOAN OFFICER

O: 406-255-5250

[meri.mcglone@fib.com](mailto:meri.mcglone@fib.com)

401 N. 31<sup>st</sup> St

Billings MT 59101



[firstinterstate.com](http://firstinterstate.com)

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Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners  
316 N 26th Street #3101  
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is **Meri** , and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County.

I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community.

The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners.

As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed. Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home. Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Sincerely,

**Meri McGlone**

2880 Alexander Rd, Billings MT 59105



**Erika Guy**

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**From:** Beamish, Rollin <rollin.beamish@montana.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 3:42 PM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** Restore YAM Funding!  
**Attachments:** Letter2Commissioners.pdf

Please see the attached letter in support of restoring county funding to the Yellowstone Art Museum (YAM).

Thank you!  
-rollin beamish



Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners 316 N 26th Street #3101  
Billings, MT 59101

08/19/2025

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is Rollin Beamish, and I enjoy visiting Billings and other communities throughout Yellowstone County.

I recently learned of your proposal to further reduce the Yellowstone Art Museum's county funding, so I'm sharing this message in hopes it will provide a different perspective for you to consider.

The YAM is a wonderful art museum, and I look forward to visiting each time I stay in Billings. Moreover, as a Professor of Art at Montana State University in Bozeman, I can attest to the importance of the YAM as a resource for showcasing and celebrating the vibrant art being produced in Montana and the Mountain West more broadly. It also serves as a vital educational resource as one of the only venues in the state and region featuring world-class exhibitions of contemporary art. Its loss or diminution would be a tremendous blow to the arts and culture of the region. I may not be a Yellowstone County taxpayer, but I understand your support and provision of reliable funding is important for its health as an organization.

Please reconsider your proposed funding cut.

Thank you for your time, and I'm excited for my next visit to Yellowstone County.

Sincerely,

Rollin Beamish  
Professor and MFA in Studio Art Program Coordinator  
Montana State University School of Art

**School of Art**

213 Haynes Hall  
P.O. Box 173680  
Bozeman, MT 59717-3680  
[www.montana.edu/art](http://www.montana.edu/art)

Tel (406) 994-4501  
Fax (406) 994-3680  
E-mail [art@montana.edu](mailto:art@montana.edu)

**Erika Guy**

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**From:** DAN GRAY <dacegray@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 3:33 PM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** YAM cuts

Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners

316 N 26th Street #3101

Billings, MT 59101

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

Our names are Dan and Celine Gray, and we are residents of Yellowstone County. We are sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. We are deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community. The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners. As your constituents, we urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed. Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home. Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Sincerely,

Dan and Celine Gray

494 Cherry Hills Rd. Billings MT 59105

**Erika Guy**

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**From:** Covey Baker <covey.baker@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 2:34 PM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** Museum funding

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is Covey Baker, and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County.

I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community.

The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners.

As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed.

Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home.

Thank you for your work in service of our community.

## Erika Guy

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**From:** Danell Jones <danell@danelljones.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 2:17 PM  
**To:** commission  
**Subject:** YAM Budget Cuts are Unacceptable

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the proposed reduction in funding to the Yellowstone Art Museum (YAM) through the County's Museum Fund.

If this budget is adopted, YAM's portion will be reduced to just 6%—about \$50,000. Only two years ago, the museum consistently received 25% of the fund. Such a drastic cut threatens not only the museum's stability but also its ability to serve our community.

The impact of this decision will be wide-reaching. Youth education programs, community outreach, and exhibitions will all be diminished. The preservation of the historic former Yellowstone County Jail—home to the museum since 1964—will be placed at risk. Most troubling of all, staff positions are jeopardized, which directly reduces accessibility and programming for Yellowstone County residents.

The timing of this reduction is especially difficult. Communicating such a major change with little notice leaves the museum without the necessary time to secure alternative support. This sudden shift undermines decades of collaboration between the County and the museum—a partnership that has historically been a point of pride for Yellowstone County.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed cut and restore more equitable funding to the Yellowstone Art Museum. Supporting YAM means supporting education, history, cultural vitality, and the quality of life in our community. The arts are not a luxury—they are a cornerstone of a thriving, resilient county.

Thank you for your attention and for your service to Yellowstone County. I hope you will stand with the museum and the residents who value it.

Danell Jones

Billings, MT

**Erika Guy**

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**From:** Mehmet Casey <mehmet.casey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 1:51 PM  
**To:** Mark Morse; Mike Waters; Chris White; commission  
**Subject:** Please restore YAM funding

Dear, Commissioners Morse, Waters, and White -

My name is Mehmet Casey, and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County for 19 years now. In fact, I currently live in District 1, work in District 2 and had lived in District 3 in the past for 7 years.

I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively impact the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community.

Places like the YAM cater to the County's residents and visitors alike. It's an entertainment venue, an educational site, an event space, and a cultural gem. It employs exceptional talent and offers tireless programming, enthralling exhibits, and innovative activities for all ages. To be candidly and politely frank, robbing Peter to pay Paul never works as a method or practice. It may create a short-term relief but the long-term damage may become irreparable.

The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners. As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed.

Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home.

Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Sincerely,

Mehmet Casey

**Erika Guy**

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**From:** Lindsay Woods Richardson <lwoods11@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 1:48 PM  
**To:** commission  
**Cc:** Chris White; Mike Waters; Mark Morse  
**Subject:** The Yellowstone Art Museum is a Cultural Asset of the Community

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is Lindsay Richardson, and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County and have been for over fifteen years. I'm writing this email to you after learning of your plan to cut funding AGAIN from the Yellowstone Art Museum. The YAM provides exceptional year-round programming and education for our community (young and old). The YAM is a space I bring my out-of-town guests to, escape to on my own, bring my young family to, meet with friends at, and engage in learning at. It's an asset for residents as well as those of us in Workforce Recruitment. It's a community asset enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. It's a cultural hub, a space for creativity and community. As a downtown employee, I can speak in-depth with you on the correlation of art, community, and safety. The Yellowstone Art Museum has continued year-over-year to prove their ROI for our community. They continue to put work into making their museum accessible to all, educational, and safe to all (ie: the multiple Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design property enhancements they've made and continue to improve on). I'm deeply concerned, and believe you should be as well, that this decision to cut funding AGAIN will negatively affect the museum, our downtown, and Billings by hindering programming and activities the museum offers to our community. **The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners.** As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed.

Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home. Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Lindsay Richardson  
2509 Spring Gulch Way  
Billings MT 59105